

REMARKS

Claims 1- 23, 25-37, 49-54, 93-95 and 99 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11-14, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25-35, 49, 50, 53, and 93-95 are amended. Claim 24 is cancelled.

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 24 and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.. Basis for the amendments to claim 1 is found in the specification, at, for example, pages 9-10, which discusses, M, m, N and n:

... there are M_i polypeptide tags, designated $E_1 - E_m$, which are equal to the number of different capture agents, such as antibodies in the collection, and N_i divider regions, where N is the number of samples that are amplified by each individual divider region, and "i", which is at least 1, refers to the sorting step. At each sorting step, the number of tags and divider regions may be different. Hence there are N divider regions, designated $D_1 - D_n$

The amendment to claim 4 finds basis, for example, at page 15, line 28 to page 16, line 11, defining "addressable collection of capture agents" and in the claims as originally filed. Claims 8 and 9 are amended to provide proper antecedent basis with independent claim 1. Basis for this amendment can be found for example, page 15, line 28 to page 16, line 11. Claim 18 is amended to replace an inadvertent typographical error in the claim dependency such that it depends on claim 17 to provide proper antecedent basis for "the plurality."

Claims 11-14 and 16 are amended to replace "epitope-encoding" with "polypeptide-encoding" for greater clarity. Claims 20, 23, 27, 34-35 are also amended for clarity and consistency by replacing the term "epitope" with "polypeptide" or "sequence of amino acids." Basis for these amendments can be found, for example at beginning at page 16, line 15, which defines epitope tags:

As used herein, an epitope tag refers to a sequence of amino acids that includes the sequence of amino acids, herein



referred to as epitope, to which an anti-tag capture agent, such as an antibody specifically binds. For polypeptide and epitope tags, the specific sequence of amino acids to which each binds is referred to herein generically as an epitope.

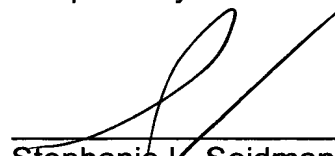
Claim 25 is amended to dependent from claim 1, since the claim 24 is cancelled and has been incorporated into claim 1 as amended. Claim 26 is amended to specify that n and m are 10 or higher. Similarly, claims 27-32, and 94-95 are amended to specify that the range for n is 10 or above. These amendments finds basis in the specification at pages 16-18 in the paragraphs defining "epitope tag" and "D_n divider region." Claim 27 is also amended to depend on claim 26 to provide proper antecedent basis for the "unique sequence of amino acids." Claim 32 is amended to depend on claim 28.

Claims 49 and 50 are amended to clarify "the results of sorts"; this amendment finds basis, for example, at the section beginning at page 32 entitled "Nested sorting using addressable anti-tag receptor collections", and the claims as originally filed. Claim 53 is amended to depend on claim 51 to provide proper antecedent basis.

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Entry of this amendment and examination of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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